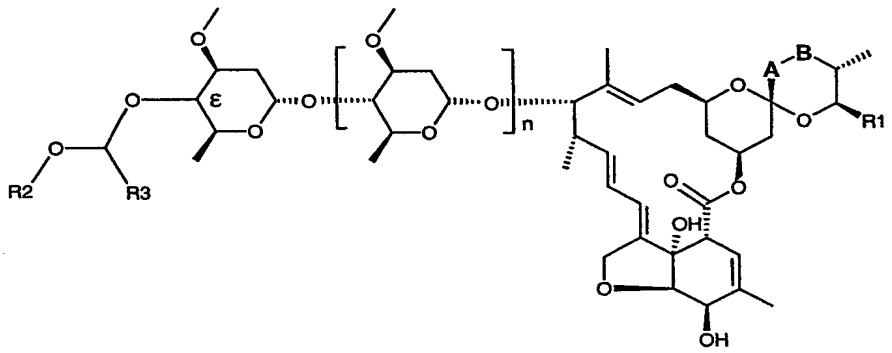
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula



(I)

wherein

n is 0 or 1;

A-B is -CH=CH- or $-CH_2-CH_2-$;

R_1 is C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl or C_2-C_{12}-alkenyl;

R_2 is C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_2-C_{12}-alkenyl, C_2-C_{12}-alkinyl; or C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_2-C_{12}-alkenyl or C_2-C_{12}-alkinyl, which are substituted with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, CN, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl which is optionally substituted with one to three C_1-C_6-alkyl-groups, C_3-C_8-cycloalkenyl which is optionally substituted with one to three C_1-C_6-alkyl-groups, norbornylenyl-, C_3-C_8-halocycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_3-C_8-cycloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, C_3-C_8-cycloalkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-alkylsulfinyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_3-C_8-halocycloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkylsulfonyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylsulfonyl, C_3-C_8-halocycloalkylsulfonyl, $-NR_4R_6$, -X-C(=Y)-R_4, -X-C(=Y)-Z-R_4, $-P(=O)(OC_1$-C_6-alkyl$)_2$, aryl, heterocyclyl, aryloxy, arylthio and heterocyclyloxy; wherein the aryl, heterocyclyl, aryloxy, arylthio and heterocyclyloxy groups are optionally – depending on the substitution possibilities on the ring – substituted with one to five substituents selected form the group consisting of OH, Halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-Cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-Haloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-Haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, $Si(C_1$-C_{12}-alkyl$)_3$, -X-C(=Y)-R_4, -X-C(=Y)-Z-R_4, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy; or

R_2 is aryl, heterocyclyl C_3-C_8-Cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8-Cycloalkenyl; or aryl, heterocyclyl

C_3-C_8-Cycloalkyl or C_3-C_8-Cycloalkenyl, which are optionally – depending on the substitution possibilities on the ring – substituted with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl, dimethylamino-C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, methylendioxy, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy;

R_3 is H, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl or C_1-C_{12}-alkyl which is substituted with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, CN, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, C_3-C_8-Cycloalkyl which is optionally substituted with one to three C_1-C_6-alkyl groups, norbornylenyl-, C_3-C_8-Cycloalkenyl which is optionally substituted with one to three methyl groups; C_3-C_8-halocycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_3-C_8-cycloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, C_3-C_8-cycloalkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-alkylsulfinyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylsulfinyl, C_3-C_8-halocycloalkylsulfinyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkylsulfonyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylsulfonyl, C_3-C_8-halocycloalkylsulfonyl, $-NR_4R_6$, -X-C(=Y)-R_4, -X-C(=Y)-Z-R_4, -P(=O)(OC_1-C_6-alkyl)$_2$, aryl, heterocyclyl, aryloxy, arylthio and heterocyclyloxy; wherein the aryl, heterocyclyl, aryloxy, arylthio and heterocyclyloxy groups are optionally – depending on the substitution possibilities on the ring – substituted with one to five substituents selected form the group consisting of OH, Halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-Cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-Haloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-Haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, Si(C_1-C_{12}-alkyl)$_3$, -X-C(=Y)-R_4, -X-C(=Y)-Z-R_4, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy; or

R_2 and R_3 together are a three- to seven-membered alkylen- or a four - to seven-membered alkenylenbridge, wherein one or two CH_2-groups may independently of each other be replaced by a group -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, O, S, $-NR_5$, -OC(=O)-O, -OC(=O)S-, -OC(=O)N(R_5)-, -C(=O)O-, -C(=O)S, -C(=O)N(R_5)-, -N(R_5)C(=O)S-, -N(R_5)C(=O)N(R_5)-, and wherein the alkylene or alkenylenbridge may be independently of each other substituted with one or two substituents selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy and C_1-C_4-halogenalkyl;

X is O, NR_5 or a bond;

Y is O or S;

Z is O, S or NR_5

R_4 is H, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl which is optionally substituted with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy and CN; C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aryl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl; or aryl, heterocyclyl, aryl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl or heterocyclyl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, which are – depending on the substitution possibilities – optionally substituted in the ring with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl and C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy;

R_5 is H, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, benzyl or -C(=O)-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl;

R_6 is H, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl which is optionally substituted with halogen, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, CN, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-haloalkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, C_1-C_{12}-Haloalkenyl, -X-C(=Y)-R_9, -X-C(=Y)-Z-R_9, -SO_2-R_9, aryl, heterocyclyl, aryl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl; or aryl, heterocyclyl, aryl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl or heterocyclyl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, which are – depending on the substitution possibilities – optionally substituted in the ring with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl or C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy; or

R_4 and R_6 together are a three- to five membered alkylene bridge, wherein one of the methylene groups may be replaced by O, S or SO_2; and

R_9 is H, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl which is optionally substituted with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_6-alkoxy and CN; C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, aryl, heterocyclyl, aryl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, heterocyclyl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl; or aryl, heterocyclyl, aryl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl or heterocyclyl-C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, which are – depending on the substitution possibilities – optionally substituted in the ring with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1-C_6-alkoxy, C_1-C_6-haloalkyl and C_1-C_6-haloalkoxy;

and, where applicable, to E/Z isomers, mixtures of E/Z isomers and/or tautomers, in each case in free form or in salt form;

with the proviso, that the compound is not an Avermectin B1a or B1b derivative when n is 1, R_3 is H, and R_2 is -CH_2-CH_2-OCH_3 or -CH_2-CH_2-O-phenyl; is not the B1a or B1b derivative when n is 2, R_3 is H, and R_2 is -CH_2-CH_2-O-phenyl; is not the B1a or B1b derivative when n is 1, and R_2 and R_3 together are usubstituted -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; and is not the B2a or B2b derivative when n is 1, R_3 is H, and R_2 is -CH_2-CH_2-OCH_3.

2. A compound according to claim 1 of the formula (I) in the free form.

3. A compound according to any one of claims 1 or 2 of the formula (I), wherein wherein R_3 is methyl.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 or 2 of the formula (I), wherein wherein R_3 is C_3-C_8-alkyl.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 or 2 of the formula (I), wherein wherein R_3 is C_1-C_8-alkyl which is substituted with one to five substituents selected from the group consisting of OH, halogen, CN, $-N_3$, $-NO_2$, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl which is optionally substituted with one to three C_1-C_6-alkyl groups, norbornylenyl-, C_3-C_8-Cycloalkenyl which is optionally substituted with one to three methyl groups; C_3-C_8-halocycloalkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, aryl, heterocyclyl, arylthio or heterocyclyloxy; wherein the aryl, heterocyclyl, arylthio and heterocyclyloxy groups are optionally – depending on the substitution possibilities on the ring – substituted with one to five substituents selected form the group consisting of OH, Halogen, CN, NO_2, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl, C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_{12}-alkylthio, C_1-C_{12}-haloalkylthio, C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl, C_2-C_8-alkenyl, C_2-C_8-alkinyl, $Si(C_1$-C_{12}-alkyl$)_3$, -X-C(=Y)-R_4, -X-C(=Y)-Z-R_4, aryl, aryloxy, heterocyclyl and heterocyclyloxy.

6. A pesticide which contains at least one compound of the formula (I) as described in claim 1 as active compound and at least one auxiliary.

7. A method for controlling pests wherein a composition as described in claim 6 is applied to the pests or their habitat.